GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:201
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2016
Settlement of Provident Fund Claims
Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the total number of cases of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) settled by the Employees" Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) during each of the last three years;
(b)the total number of cases of EPF pending for settlement during the above period, State/UT-wise;
(c)whether any norms have been prescribed for the processing of claims, if so, the details thereof along with the rate of settlement;
(d)whether the Government proposes to reduce the period of settlement of claims and if so, the details thereof; and
(e)the other steps taken/being taken by the Government for speedy disposal of the pending claims including online processing?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 201 TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.05.2016 BY SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO & KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH REGARDING SETTLEMENT OF PROVIDENT FUND CLAIMS.

(a): The total number of claims settled by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) during the last three years is as under:-
Year No. of claims settled (in lakh)
2013-14 123.36
2014-15 130.21
2015-16 118.66

(b): The State-wise pendency of cases at the end of financial year 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 is at Annex.

(c): As per Paragraph 72(7) of Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 1952, claims complete in all respects shall be settled within 20 days.

During the year 2015-16, 98 per cent of claims have been settled within 20 days.

(d): No, Madam. However, the Government vide notification No. G.S.R. 525 (E), G.S.R. 526 (E) & G.S.R. 527 (E) dated 02.07.2015 has reduced the settlement period from 30 days to 20 days.

(e): The following steps have been taken by EPFO for speedy settlement of claims:-

i. EPFO has allotted a unique Universal Account Number (UAN) to its members for portability and consolidation of all previous accounts. The employees whose details like Aadhaar or Permanent Account Number (PAN) and Bank Account Numbers have been seeded in their UAN and whose UAN have been activated by their employers, may submit claim forms directly to the EPFO without attestation of their employers.
ii. Online Transfer Claim Portal (OTCP) has been introduced to facilitate seamless transfer of claims.
iii. The process of settlement has been simplified and certain manual processes have been done away with.
iv. National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) and Core Banking Solutions have been introduced for provident fund payments. Over 99 per cent of all payments, including monthly pension payments, are effected electronically.
v. A multilevel supervision is being done at different hierarchies.